The Heart of a Servant

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Psalms 23:4 (KJV)

I'm nowhere near the man that Job was. I have gone through nothing near what he did, yet sometimes I can get really discouraged. I have been having little 'heart to heart' talks with God a lot this week about my situation. People who have never been tested can never understand what those of us who have are going through. In my opinion I have a great amount of faith in God; so when I feel like I have come to the end of it, it is a frightening experience.

When you're riding high on a wave of faith you really feel that you can 'do all things through Christ' and every other promise rings in your ear. But then when you come crashing down and you feel the riptide pulling you out to sea all those 'good feelings' are washed away quickly. You start to look around and wonder where our Lifeguard is; He is supposed to protect us, isn't He? He promises to never leave or forsake me? Well. Where is He? I'm in trouble and I need Him NOW! Where is the promise of His coming?

Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.
2 Peter 3:3-4 (KJV)

We depend way too much on our feelings. You can always tell who the Christians are who've never been put to the test. I remember once stopping briefly on Christian channel (before I gave up TV) and listening to this woman give her 'testimony' about how God came to her and told her He was going to give her all the desires of her heart, which for her was money, a handsome husband and a music career. I felt like putting my foot through the television.

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.
Matthew 7:24-25 (KJV)

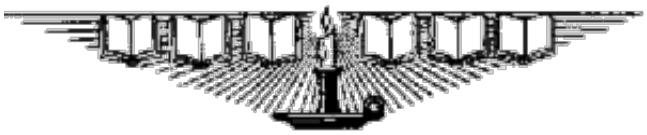
Christians who have been fooled by the prosperity gospel are in deep, deep trouble. Their faith in God is dependent on what's in it for them. When those floods come the words of the scoffers will reverberate throughout their rank and file. "Where is the promise of His coming?" the scoffers will say, and they will nod in agreement. They've build their houses on the sand instead of faith in Christ.

> **Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)**
> **Hebrews 10:23 (KJV)**

To those of you who like me have gone through the valley or are even still there I want to speak to you as a fellow traveler on that road. Although the things we endure seem to be unreasonable and unfair they are for a purpose. If we can just understand that one fact and hold onto it for dear life even when nothing else makes sense we can hold fast.

> **Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer.**
> **Proverbs 25:4 (KJV)**

It is pure blind faith, not supported by feelings or others. It is following what we know to be right when every single person tells us we are wrong, when even our eyes tell us we are wrong! It is following that Truth even when we know it will likely cost us our lives. That is what God is preparing us for. He is taking the dross out of us, refining us into vessels of honor (**Romans 9:21 KJV**).

> **But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**
> **Matthew 24:48-51 (KJV)**

God is looking for a people with the heart of a servant; a people of faith who will believe what His Words says even when it is inconvenient. A servant has a job to do; He knows what is required of him and does it to the best of his ability. The prosperity gospel has it backwards; they think God is their servant!